

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL SECTION ONE OF CHAPTER FIVE OF THE ACTS OF THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, EMPOWERING CITIES AND TOWNS TO MAKE CONTRACTS WITH RAILROAD AND BRIDGE COMPANIES FOR THE USE OF WAGON BRIDGES ACROSS RIVERS, AND TO ENACT A SUBSTITUTE THEREFOR.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. That section one of chapter five of the acts of the Fifteenth General Assembly be and the same is hereby repealed, and the following enacted in lieu thereof:

Section 1. That all cities situated on any river in the State of Iowa, or any river forming the boundary line of the said State, whether organized and existing under special charter or general law, and from which to the opposite shore of any of said rivers a bridge has been or may be constructed by any railroad or other private company, corporation or person, shall have power to contract with the company, corporation or person owning such bridge for the use of the same as a public highway, which use may be jointly with any company, corporation or person having or desiring the right to use the same for the passage of cars propelled by steam or otherwise, or may be for the sole use of such portion of such bridge as may be devoted and adapted to highway travel, and in such contract may have the right to assume the sole or any portion of the liability for damage to persons or property by reason of their being on any portion of said bridge, or on any approach to either end thereof, caused by the running of cars or locomotives by any corporation, company or person entitled to use the said bridge, whether the damage results from the negligence of the persons engaged in running said cars or locomotives or otherwise, and to indemnify and save harmless the owners of said bridge, and any or all corporations, companies or persons entitled to use the same from all liability or damage so caused to the extent or proportion thereof assumed in the said contract. And the said city may cause to be assessed and levied, each year, upon the taxable property of said city a tax not exceeding ten (10) mills on the dollar, each year, to raise a special fund to carry out the terms of the said contract. And the said city may thereafter and during the continuance of said contract manage and control the said bridge so far as necessary to regulate the highway travel thereon and may regulate the same as a free or toll bridge, and prescribe such rates of toll as to it from time to time shall seem proper, and make all necessary police regulations for the government of the highway travel on said bridge.

SEC. 2. This act being deemed of immediate importance shall be in force from and after its publication in Iowa State Register, a newspaper published in the city of Des Moines, and State Leader, a newspaper published in the city of Des Moines.